

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CPR-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /087 W

-----088350 131500Z /45

R 130805Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1011

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, GW, NL, BU, NO, UN, UR, NATO

SUBJ: ECEVIT TO VISIT US IN MAY, FRG IN MAY OR JUNE

REF: (A) BONN 3912 (NOTAL, (B) ANKARA 1051 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRIMIN ECEVIT WILL VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN MAY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND FOR THE NATO SUMMIT. HE EXPECTS TO GO TO BONN IN MAY OR JUNE. THE PRIMIN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BE AN OFFICIAL GUEST IN SOFIA IN THE SPRING, BUT PRESS REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL VISITS IN COMING MONTH, WHILE POSSIBLE, ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT CURRENTLY ON PRIMIN'S SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE NATO SUMMIT AT THE END OF MAY, PRIMIN ECEVIT WILL APPARENTLY BE IN THE UNITED STATES IN MAY FOR THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD). SAYING THAT THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ECEVIT'S PLANS TO ATTEND THE SSOD, AN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PRIMIN'S INTENTIONS WERE MADE

KNOWN AT NATO AND TO THE BARTON GROUP AT THE UN WITHIN THE PAST TWO WEEKS. WHILE OFFICIAL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SSOD PARTICIPATION IS AWAITING AN "APPROPRIATE TIME," ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICER, A SMALL, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ANKARA DAILY REPORTED ECEVIT'S PLANS ON MARCH 10. ANOTHER MFA OFFICIAL SAID ECEVIT WILL ATTEMPT TO COMBINE THE SSOD AND NATO SUMMIT VISITS.

3. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, PERSONAL COUNSELOR TO THE FONMIN CONFIRMED REF A REPORT THAT PRIMIN ECEVIT HAS AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE FRG. AFTER ECEVIT'S MEETING WITH WILLY BRANDT, MARCH 12 ANKARA RADIO ANNOUNCED VISIT. DEPENDING ON HIS SCHEDULE, ECEVIT HOPES TO GO TO BONN IN MAY OR JUNE.

4. ON MARCH 3 IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIMIN ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE EXPECTS TO VISIT BULGARIA THIS SPRING. THE TURKISH PRESS HAS SINCE SPECULATED THAT THE PRIMIN MAY GO TO THE NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY, AS WELL AS THE SOVIET UNION AND SOME OTHER "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES THIS YEAR. AN MFA OFFICIAL IN THE WESTERN DEPARTMENT TOLD EMBOFFS, HOWEVER, THAT HE KNOWS OF NO CURRENT PLANS FOR ECEVIT TO GO TO THE NETHERLANDS OR NORWAY. A NORWEIGIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO US THAT THERE IS NO INVITATION OUTSTANDING FOR ECEVIT TO VISIT OSLO, BUT HE ADDED THAT THE "RECENT AND DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT" IN TURKISH-NORWEIGIAN RELATIONS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETELY DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT.

5. REF B REPORTS THAT ECEVIT HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT
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THE SOVIET UNION, PROBABLY IN THE LAST HALF OF 1978. MFA WESTERN DEPARTMENT OFFICER INDICATED TO US THAT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE ECEVIT TRAVELS TO OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE VISIT TO BULGARIA, ARE, LIKE RUMORS OF TRIPS TO WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS, "JUST PRESS SPECULATIONS ."

6. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HOW TO MAKE BEST USE OF ECEVIT'S PROJECTED TRAVEL TO THE US.
SPIERS

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Disposition Remarks:
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